

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Revolution Snowboard

Utah Manufacturing Extension Partnership

Revolution Snowboards Takes Pride in Their Lean Ride

Client Profile:

Revolution Snowboard, founded in 2005, manufactures snowboards and related accessories. Revolution's employees build boards that are tested and proven in the Utah parks and backcountry. The company employs 20 people at its facility in Orem, Utah.

Situation:

Revolution's new general manager knew how to make snowboards but wanted assistance in developing manufacturing techniques that would help the company compete on a global level. The company contacted the Utah Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP Utah), a NIST MEP network affiliate, for help.

Solution:

MEP Utah helped Revolution understand the foundational concepts of Lean manufacturing by presenting several Lean 101 overviews for company employees which included live simulation. With the assistance of MEP Utah, Revolution implemented several Lean tools:

- 5S (Sort, Set in Order, Shine, Standardize, Sustain) training included all team members and resulted in 5S being implemented throughout the shop.
- Total Productive Maintenance (TPM) focused on three pieces of equipment (Upright Grinder, Jet Saw and Re-Saw). Daily maintenance schedules were developed for each piece of equipment and an OEE (Overall Equipment Effectiveness) data collection system was set up to be reported during the daily report-out meetings. The idea here is to properly maintain the equipment so that there are no break downs and each piece is working to maximum capacity.
- Value Stream Mapping (VSM) provided a base Current State Map and led to the identification of several opportunities to reduce costs including a simplified inventory system that saved the cost of a computerized inventory management system.
- Dynamic Problem Solving and A3 Reporting: Through the use of the A3 reporting format, employees were taught the basics of PDCA (Plan, Do, Check, Act) and using SPC (Statistical Process Control) tools to drill down to root causes, develop countermeasures and implement them.

As a result of MEP Utah's assistance, the company increased overall production, lowered inventory costs, improved communication, and increased employee involvement. Revolution's General Manager Brady Fox said, "The Lean Management System training MEP Utah provided has helped improve communication and scheduling. The original 5S training has been a cornerstone of our employee involvement and continues to provide a daily approach to keeping our facility organized."

Results:

* Retained sales of \$500,000.

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- * Realized \$105,000 in cost savings.
- * Created 4 jobs.
- * Retained 11 jobs.

Testimonial:

"MEP Utah has been instrumental in helping develop core manufacturing approaches that have significantly impacted our ability to increase our overall production while lowering our costs, especially inventory. I appreciate the way the MEP Utah instructors have been able to adapt their instruction to our work environment and industry."

Brady Fox, General Manager